

RCoA Research, Education & Travel Grants 2017

Award: Belfast Fund

Applicant: Dr Andrew Nath

Project Title: *Observership of lung transplant anaesthesia in Canadian National cardiothoracic unit*

Project Description:

I intend to travel to Toronto General Hospital, the location of Canada's largest multiorgan transplant programme, performing more than 500 organ transplants per year, and one of the world's largest lung transplant programmes. I have the specific aim of observing the lung transplant programme. I aim to spend 2 weeks at the centre during which time I would hope to see approximately 3-5 lung transplants per week based on previous experience of consultant colleagues that have completed similar trips. I have contacted a consultant anaesthetist at the centre who has agreed to oversee my trip and several of my consultant colleagues have made similar trips which have established this link between our hospitals. I plan to spend time observing the care of this complex patient group from both a clinical perspective through the perioperative journey of organ transplantation, and also from an organisational and team work perspective, so as to gain insight into how a service such as this is run.

I currently work at the Golden Jubilee National Hospital in Glasgow, which is Scotland's cardiac transplant centre, where I am currently undertaking a one year fellowship in advanced cardiothoracic anaesthesia as part of my ST6 and ST7 years of anaesthesia training. The hospital is currently in talks to set up a lung transplant programme in the coming years. It is important at a Scottish national level to have a core of staff with experience in lung transplantation in order to help a fledgling service to get up and running successfully, and my experience gained from observing practise in an established centre will enable me to contribute effectively to this process should I succeed in my goal of gaining a consultant cardiothoracic anaesthesia post at the Golden Jubilee National Hospital upon completion of my anaesthesia training in August 2018.

On a personal level, experience gained at an overseas national transplant centre would be beneficial for my development as an anaesthetist. In particular, observing another country's health care system allows a clearer perspective to be gained of the challenges of perioperative medicine that face not just UK, but global healthcare which has increasing costs and a need for greater efficiency. I would aim to disseminate my knowledge and experience among my colleagues upon returning through presentation at local meetings during the remainder of my training and involvement in service planning up on completion of training.

I believe that the above factors would benefit the West of Scotland's cardiothoracic unit and would use the funding received to pay for travel and accommodation in Toronto, which would not be available to me through training committee funding from my deanery.